

Oxford Community - Federal Resources

On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, the Oxford community experienced the unimaginable. In the wake of this tragedy, <u>Congresswoman Slotkin and her team are standing by to provide support to the community</u>, in whatever way possible.

Below are a number of federal and federally-supported programs, which may be able to provide funding and resources to the Oxford community. Please note that the program summaries are based on the best information currently available, including conversations with agency and Congressional staff, and shouldn't be taken as definitive legal advice. If you are interested in utilizing any of these resources, please connect with the agency directly for definitive guidance.

Aside from the Michigan Crime Victims Compensation Program, which individuals may apply for, these resources are intended to be utilized by governments, education agencies, emergency services, and other local, municipal, and county entities.

Our office is here to answer any questions, advocate for any applications you submit for federal funding, and provide any assistance we can. We are all in this together.

New Funding Opportunities

Resources for Individuals

(1) Michigan Crime Victims Compensation Program

The Michigan Crime Victims Compensation Program may help pay out-of-pocket medical expenses, lost earnings, funeral bills, counseling, or other expenses for people who have been physically injured as the direct result of a crime in the state of Michigan. The maximum award limit per claim is \$25,000. Among other requirements, to qualify, victims must first seek reimbursement from other sources (health insurance, Medicaid, Short/Long term disability etc.); cooperate with the investigation, court hearings, and with Crime Victim Services Commission (CVSC); and file a claim with CVSC within one year from the date of injury or discovery.

Resources for Oxford Community Schools

(2) Department of Education — School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV)

Project SERV grants provide support after traumatic events to affected local educational agencies (LEAs). Project SERV funds may be used for a wide variety of activities, including mental health assessments, referrals, and services for students, faculty, other school personnel, and members of their immediate families. At the discretion of the Secretary of Education, funding amounts and project periods may be established to reflect the scope of the incident.

Resources for Oakland County and the State of Michigan

(3) DOJ Office for Victims of Crime — Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP)

AEAP supports victims and jurisdictions that have experienced incidents of terrorism or mass violence. AEAP funding may be used to hire additional staff, pay overtime costs, or secure additional office space to support victim needs. Victims' needs include, but are not limited to, mental health/trauma informed care; medical expenses (including rehabilitation expenses); vocational rehabilitation expenses; repatriation of remains; funeral expenses; child and dependent care, lost wages, and support of victim participation in criminal justice proceedings.

AEAP grants are available by DOJ-OVC invitation only. Shortly after an event, DOJ-OVC will contact officials in the state or jurisdiction where the incident occurred to discuss the scope of victims' needs and explain what resources may be available. In most instances, DOJ-OVC will make only one award for each incident with the grantee assuming overall responsibility for coordination of grant activities with subgrantees.

Qualified applicants include state victim assistance and compensation programs; public agencies, including federal, state, and local governments; public institutions of higher education; and nongovernmental and victim service organizations.

The amount of funding available is decided on a case-by-case basis based on factors such as the availability of other resources, the severity of the impact, and the number of people suffering from physical, emotional, or psychological injury.

(4) DOJ — Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants Program (Byrne JAG)

DOJ has the ability to specially direct funding from its annual Byrne JAG appropriations, to communities that have experienced "precipitous or extraordinary increases" in crimes, such as mass violence.

The core program is the largest source of federal funding for state, local, and tribal public safety activities and can be used to defray law enforcement expenses, such as salary and overtime expenses for first responders.

This specialized Byrne JAG funding is only available by DOJ invitation, and is generally coordinated by the state law enforcement department or agency.

Existing Funding Opportunities

Resources for Oxford Community Schools

(5) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

ESSER funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes, including to support students' social, emotional, and mental health. The funding received by Oxford Community Schools may be used at their discretion, subject to certain restrictions. Frequently Asked Questions about ESSER can be found here.

Resources for Oxford Township and Oakland County

(6) <u>American Rescue Plan -- Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds</u>

The American Rescue Plan included funding sent directly to states and local governments to be used to cover (mostly) COVID-19-related expenses. We believe that these funds <u>may</u> be used to cover certain mental health resources.

Oxford Charter Township will receive just over \$2 million, the Village of Oxford will receive \$370,000, Oakland County will receive \$244 million, and the state of Michigan has received \$6.54 billion. Funding received by local governments can be used at their discretion (subject to statutory/regulatory requirements), funding received by counties may be used at their discretion and may be sub-allocated to local governments (generally after a formal request has been submitted), and funding received by the state is subject to agreement between the Governor and the Legislature (generally through the standard state appropriations process).